

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: May 25, 2001

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on May 18, 2001

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: David A. Ullrich
Acting Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

**Emergency Response, West Jefferson Avenue Caustic Spill,
Riverview, Michigan**

On May 9, 2001, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Michelle Jaster responded to a report from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) of an unknown caustic liquid spill along West Jefferson Avenue in Riverview, Michigan. Investigations revealed a white/beige colored solid in a low-lying area adjacent to both a railroad spur and former steel mill property. Pooled liquid on top of the solid had a pH of 13 standard units. OSC Jaster mobilized both the Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) and Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) contractors. A total of approximately 17,000 gallons of high pH liquid and 80 cubic yards of associated sludges were eventually collected as part of the emergency response action. On May 11, 2001, additional information suggested the property was owned by Canadian National Railroad (CN), and was not part of the former steel mill property as previously suggested. CN representatives responded to the scene and agreed that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) should continue response actions. Preliminary investigations suggest that a large portion of the railroad property contains fill with a high pH level, due to unknown causes. The low-lying ditch was backfilled with clean soil in an attempt to prevent further ponding of high pH liquid in the low-

lying area. Longer term remediation actions will progress with CN, MDEQ, and U.S. EPA, as appropriate. Disposal of collected wastes will be scheduled in the next few weeks, pending analytical results.

Contact: Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

Remedial Action Completion Media Event, Douglass Road/Uniroyal, Inc., Landfill Superfund Site, Mishawaka, Indiana

On April 19, 2001, Acting Regional Administrator David Ullrich participated in a media event for the completion of the remedial action at the Douglass Road/Uniroyal, Inc., Landfill Superfund site in Mishawaka, Indiana. The Elkhart Tribune and local Fox TV station attended.

Contacts: Zenny Sadlon (312-886-6682)
Leo Rosales (312-353-6198)
Dion Novak (312-886-4737)
Ken Theisen (312-886-1959)

Five-year Review Report Completed, Charlevoix Municipal Well Superfund Site, Charlevoix, Michigan

On May 15, 2001, a five-year review report was signed for the Charlevoix Municipal Well Superfund site in Charlevoix, Michigan. On September 30, 1985, the Regional Administrator approved a Record of Decision (ROD) which selected the following remedial actions at the site: allow the contaminant plumes to discharge under natural flow conditions to Lake Michigan, continue long-term monitoring of the plumes during the natural purging period, and place institutional restrictions on the installation of private wells in the contaminated aquifer. Institutional controls will be enforced by local health officials.

All of the remedies selected for this site remain protective of human health and the environment. Given the continued implementations of the remedy U.S. EPA has determined that no further Superfund five-year reviews are necessary in order to provide protection of human health and the environment.

Contact: Gladys Beard (312-886-7253)

Pre-Construction Meetings, South Point Plant Superfund Site, South Point, Ohio

On May 2, 2001, representatives from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), contractors, local officials, and

local emergency response staff, along with the Region 5 Remedial Project Manager and Community Involvement Coordinator, attended onsite pre-construction and orientation meetings at the South Point Plant Superfund site, South Point, Ohio. Two sessions covered the entire work plan and reviewed local community and Lawrence County emergency response actions. The actual onsite work will begin in May 2001.

Contacts: Robert Paulson (312-886-0272)
Matt Mankowski (312-886-1842)

Availability Session (Well Test Results), John Mercer Property Site, Alexandria, Ohio

On March 29, 2001, 57 citizens, two Columbus, Ohio, television stations, and three local newspapers attended an availability session in Alexandria, Ohio, reviewing well test results for the John Mercer Property Site (also called the John Mercer Drum Site). The public received an overview of basic chemistry ("how-to-read-the-charts") from a chemist, a review of the local surface and sub-surface ground structure from an Ohio Department of Health geologist, and briefings on their wells.

Contacts: Robert Paulson (312-886-0272)
Karla Auker (440-250-1741)
Kaushalya Khanna (312-353-2663)

Sampling Residential Properties (Lead), Eagle Picher Site, Delta, Ohio

Beginning the week of April 30, 2001, U.S. EPA staff were in Delta, Ohio, to sample residential properties for lead-contaminated foundry sand suspected of being brought from the former Eagle Picher site to residences for use as fill. The sampling is being done under Superfund removal authority. Office of Public Affairs staff traveled to Delta to assist with obtaining access agreements, establishing media contacts, and documenting work.

Contacts: Susan Pastor (312-353-1325)
Mick Hans (312-353-5050)
Matt Ohl (312-886-4442)
Ralph Dollhopf (734-692-7682)

Citizens Information Committee Quarterly Meeting, Bloomington, Indiana

On May 8, 2001, the quarterly meeting of the Bloomington,

Indiana, Citizens Information Committee was held at the Illinois Central Springs Water Treatment Facility. Local residents met at the facility to receive a tour and update on the facility. An On-Scene Coordinator gave a brief explanation of the two new million gallon replacement water retention tanks at the facility and explained that once the new tanks are completely installed and tested, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) will assume control of the facility for long term maintenance. This transfer of responsibilities is targeted for later this Summer.

Contacts: Dave Novak (312-886-7478)
Ken Theisen (312-886-1959)
Tom Alcamo (312-886-7278)

U.S. EPA Participates (PRP Informational Meeting), Chemical Recovery Site, Elyria, Ohio

On May 7, 2001, U.S. EPA was invited to attend an informational meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, regarding the Chemical Recovery Systems Superfund Site in Elyria, Ohio. This meeting was planned and set up by a law firm representing one of the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) identified by U.S. EPA for this site. The ostensible purpose of the meeting was to share information among the PRPs and encourage the PRP representatives to begin working together to address the problems posed by contamination at the site.

U.S. EPA has identified approximately 130 PRPs at this site. All PRPs were invited to attend. Approximately 30 companies were represented at the meeting. U.S. EPA was represented by the Remedial Project Manager, Gwendolyn Massenburg, and the assigned attorney, Thomas Nash. U.S. EPA showed slides depicting site operations during the late 1970s and early 1980s, taken by the recently retired Elyria Fire Marshall. U.S. EPA answered questions from the PRPs' representatives regarding the site operations and U.S. EPA's plans for addressing the site.

Contact: Gwendolyn Massenburg (312-886-0983)

Agencies Meet (Discuss Next Steps), Muskego Sanitary Landfill Superfund Site, Muskego, Wisconsin

On March 30, 2001, representatives from U.S. EPA; and, the Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources, and Health and Family Services met to discuss plans for addressing groundwater contamination found near the Muskego Sanitary Landfill (also

called Muskego Municipal Landfill) Superfund site in Muskego, Wisconsin. Plans were made to review a revised draft work plan for additional groundwater monitoring, conduct a health assessment, and prepare a fact sheet.

Contacts: Bri Bill (312-353-6646)
Sheri Bianchin (312-886-4745)
Tom Krueger (312-886-0562)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Response Exercise, Channahon, Illinois

On May 16, 2001, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Brad Benning and Chris Christenson (Oil Pollution Act) participated in a drill exercise sponsored by the Three Rivers Coop group. The boom deployment drill was hosted by BP Amoco Chemical, located in Channahon, Illinois. The spill coop includes the following companies which participated in the exercise: BASF, BP, Citgo, Dow, Equistar, Exxon/Mobil, Petroleum Fuel, Premcor, and Stepan. The following organizations also played roles or observed the exercise: the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), U.S. EPA, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA), the Will County Sheriff, the Emergency Management Agency (EMA), Channahon Fire Department, and the Three Rivers Manufacturers' Association. The exercise simulated a collision of a tow vessel and a barge docked at the BP Amoco facility along the Des Plaines River. The tow vessel released approximately 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel to the river, the barge containing styrene was damaged but not leaking. The main goal of the exercise was to utilize and coordinate the resources of the Three Rivers Coop group to deploy boom and contain the release. Approximately 2,000 feet of boom was deployed within 90 minutes at six locations along the river. Boom locations were identified based on environmentally sensitive areas, water intakes, and economic concerns. Weather and river conditions were excellent during the drill, and no accidents occurred during the deployment operation.

Contacts: Brad Benning (312-353-7613)
Chris Christenson (312-353-6303)

Unannounced Exercises, Madison & St. Clair Counties, Illinois

On May 7-9, 2001, Ann Whelan, Sheila Calovich and Barbi Lee (OPRS) conducted three unannounced exercises in Madison and St. Clair Counties in Illinois. The facilities that participated in

the exercises were: Conoco in Hartford, Equilon in Roxana, and Apex Oil Company in Granite City. All three facilities performed well and their response contractors were able to respond in the hour time frame that is required under the Oil Pollution Act (OPA). One more set of unannounced exercises is planned for fiscal year 2001.

Contact: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Cost Recovery (Job Well Done), Westinghouse/ABB Power, Bloomington, Indiana

As a result of Grace Co's work, U.S. EPA was able to refer to U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) a past cost Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) for the Westinghouse/ABB Power Superfund site in Bloomington, Indiana, which represents a 100 percent recovery of U.S. EPA's past costs (more than \$940,000). Westinghouse had initially challenged U.S. EPA's original demand, and was not prepared to pay any of the contractor costs.

For a period of time, U.S. EPA managed the Bloomington, Indiana, contractor costs (six consent decree sites, and several removal sites) using a "zz account" system. Because the existing accounting records do not separate the costs attributable to each site, Ms. Co had to rely on the monthly progress reports submitted by U.S. EPA's contractors to determine the costs for this site. She collected all of the contractor work performed documents dating back to 1995, and, working independently, developed a comprehensive and comprehensible spread sheet to document and tabulate the costs for the site. Additionally, Ms. Co worked with the Program Accounting and Analysis Section, Comptroller Branch, to ensure that the spread sheet accurately reflected all proper contractor costs. After successfully compiling the cost support package, Ms. Co presented it to Jeff Cahn, Office of Regional Counsel, and Tom Alcamo, Remedial Project Manager, and provided them with understandable proposals on how best to proceed with developing support for U.S. EPA's past cost claim. Her work was so well done and her product was so beneficial to the Agency in accomplishing the site's successful cost recovery, that Jeff Cahn took special pains to alert the Program of Ms. Co's job well done.

Contact: Thomas Marks (312-353-6591)

cc: Barry Breen (OECA)
Steve Luftig (OSWER)
Larry Reed (OERR)
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
Craig Beasley (OSWER)
Michael Shapiro (OSWER)
Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers